



The United Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

inspire • provoke • engage

# Journey



**Women  
of the word**  
We can do it!

**5** ways to be  
child safe

You could be  
a preacher

## We Have!

## Will YOU?



*Driven by our faith to serve others, we wanted our Will to reflect our beliefs.*

**We have provided for Wesley Mission Brisbane in our Will** because they have served those on the margins of society for over 100 years.

*We know our gift will be in safe hands.*



For more information on bequests, speak with your solicitor, go to [www.wmb.org.au](http://www.wmb.org.au) or call 07 3621 4679.

## THE QUEENSLAND CHOIR

# Voices of Spring

Celebrate the coming of Spring with the Queensland Choir in an afternoon of joyous music by Haydn, Bach, Mendelssohn, Grieg, Smetana, Orff and others

**Sunday 11th October at 3.00pm**  
**Chermside Kedron Community Church**  
590 Gympie Rd (Cnr. Gympie & Rode Roads), Chermside

**Tickets: \$30** (concession \$25)  
**Children/Full Time Students \$15**

**4MBS Ticketing:** 3847 1717  
or on-line at [www.4mbs.com.au](http://www.4mbs.com.au)

Proudly supported by

Produced by a local producer

## Position vacant



### Chaplain—Primary, Moreton Bay College

Moreton Bay College is seeking a full time experienced Uniting Church chaplain who displays natural gifts in working with children and young people. Blue card required.

For more information about the college visit [mbc.qld.edu.au](http://mbc.qld.edu.au), to obtain a position description with the selection criteria email John Cox at [placements@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:placements@ucaqld.com.au) or call (07) 3377 9777.

Applications close  
**Monday 28 September 2015.**



**Bethel Funerals**  
Compassion • Peace • Hope

### Peace of mind, not profit.

**It's plain and simple:**

Over 20 years Funeral Insurance could cost in excess of \$41,000.

A Prepaid funeral with Bethel Funerals, on the other hand, could cost around \$6,000.

Find out how. Call Bethel Funerals today.

**Brisbane**

**07 3219 9333**

[www.bethelfunerals.com.au](http://www.bethelfunerals.com.au)

## Classifieds

**CALOUNDRA**, beachside units, from \$300/wk. ph 0427 990 161.

**London B and B.** Lovely home, reasonable rates.  
Ph 0011 44 20 8694 6538.  
[rachelallen1234@gmail.com](mailto:rachelallen1234@gmail.com).

Explore the **Jesus Journey and evolving Christianity** with Rev Drs John Bodycomb and Lorraine Parkinson on 3 October at Redcliffe

Uniting Church. For details phone 3284 3688 or 0409 328 447. Register or find out more: [ow.ly/QYip4](http://ow.ly/QYip4)

**Boulder Creek Holiday Centre**  
281 Hill Rd, Mothar Mountain, via Gympie – the ideal place for your next church or family group camp. Catered accommodation for up to 100 persons. Self cater available for small groups. Check [bouldercreek.com.au](http://bouldercreek.com.au) for more information or ph 5483 5221.





# Jesus feminism

**The Uniting Church is unusual in a number of ways—one of them being its wholehearted embrace of women’s ordination.**

The Uniting Church has ordained women since union, as did its constituent denominations before that. We stick out among Australian churches in this regard; while other denominations ordain women, few Australian churches match the Uniting Church in their conviction that women as well as men are called to be ministers.

In this context, it’s worth revisiting why the Uniting Church is willing to make this important stand. In 1990 the Uniting Church Assembly released the report, “Why Does the Uniting Church in Australia Ordain Women to the Ministry of the Word?” Fifteen years later it is still an illuminating read, and a thoroughly biblical case for making a break with what has been a very longstanding tradition in the Christian church.

Still, 37 years after union the church has only just elected its second female president-elect. Despite our firm conviction, there are still clearly challenges for women in this space.

On page six we explore Christian feminism and talk to some trailblazing women in the Uniting Church (and one author at the centre of this discussion in the United States).

Thanks to our former moderator Rev Kaye Ronalds for being such a good sport and posing as our “Rosie the minister” on the cover.

**Rohan Salmond**  
Cross-platform editor

# Contents



6 Christian feminism



14 Lay preaching



16 Child safe churches

- 4 Moderator’s message
- 5 Edge festival
- 8 North Queensland kid’s camp
- 9 Redlands for refugees
- 10 Child safe church
- 11 Uniting by sharing
- 12 Profile: Melanie Minichiello
- 17 Fatherhood
- 18 Review: *Proverbs of Ashes*
- 19 Letters and fast news

# Journey



**journeyonline.com.au**  
Subscribe to receive *Journey* in your inbox  
[facebook.com/unitingchurch.queensland](https://facebook.com/unitingchurch.queensland)  
[twitter.com/UCAQld](https://twitter.com/UCAQld)  
[youtube.com/UnitingChurchQLD](https://youtube.com/UnitingChurchQLD)  
Synchronise stories to your blog reader

Cover: Rev Kaye Ronalds Photo: Holly Jewell

**Editor:** Rohan Salmond  
**Writer:** Dianne Jensen  
**Design:** Holly Jewell  
**Advertising:** Ashley Thompson  
**Publisher:** The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod.  
**Printing:** Horton Media Limited, Narangba  
  
**Contact:** Uniting Communications  
The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod  
60 Bayliss Street, Auchenflower QLD  
GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001  
**Ph:** (07) 3377 9910 | **E:** [journey@ucaql.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaql.com.au)  
**F:** (07) 3377 9717 | [journeyonline.com.au](http://journeyonline.com.au)

**ISSN:** 0817-4466; **Circulation:** 15 000; *Journey* is published 11 times a year for the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia. Opinions expressed in *Journey* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the policies of the Uniting Church. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement; inclusion of advertising material is at the discretion of the publisher. *Journey* cannot guarantee the publication and/or return of submissions but makes every effort to do so if requested.  
  
Closing date for editorial and advertising for October *Journey* is Monday 14 September. The next issue of *Journey* will be available on Sunday 4 October.



Monday Midday Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Call us closer to your Spirit;  
empty our hearts of fear,  
fill us with courage to live  
the life of the kingdom  
today.  
Amen

Moderator’s highlights

- 9 September**  
Ecumenical service for Child Protection week, St John’s Cathedral, Brisbane
- 10 September**  
World suicide prevention day, Out of the Shadows and Into the Light Walk, Auchenflower, Brisbane
- 15 September**  
UnitingCare Australia Leaders’ Forum, Canberra

# There is no “them”

**When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on Earth?**

“We are as guarded and concerned about our place here as we ever have been. Some in our community are not sure if we’re welcome,” says a Queensland Muslim leader.

“We are reaching out to our young men who are vulnerable—without work, from broken homes, seeking to enfold them into our community,” says a Muslim youth worker.

Engaging at a distance, through the veil of the mass media, one can think many things. Sitting face to face with people, listening, being with leaders who have a heart for their people, this pulls back the veil. A small group of Christian and Muslim leaders is working on building understanding and solidarity between Christians and Muslims in Queensland. Some of our congregations are working on this. This is the most effective space for us to work; given the way the media works in our land, it’s our only space, really.

In some ways, we are dealing with the most primal of human fears, the fear of the other who is different; the struggle to recognise to any consequential depth our common humanity, our shared destiny, let alone see the gift of the other. This pops up in many places, even within the life of our own church. It’s kind of wry—hopeful, even—that the two Christian representatives were from

the Catholic and Uniting Churches: both Christian communities in their names—Catholic (universal) and Uniting (bringing together) seem to be pointing to the core of the gospel message that this fear can be overcome.

Christianity is a universal faith; it believes it deals with the whole of creation and subsequently, the whole human family. That brings great hope and a tremendous vista to our own individual lives. It’s meant to engender a confidence, a faith that we don’t have to worry about ourselves; instead we can worry about bigger things—justice, mercy, equity, fulfilment, quality human community.

Yet a universalist faith has a shadow side that must be recognised—it can become subsumed to the fear of the other such that we start believing everyone must become like us. We become blind to our common humanity, and our faith becomes something other than that to which Jesus bore witness. It was that fear that Jesus confronted; it was that fear that led to his rejection and crucifixion. It was that fear that was conquered in his resurrection. The Lord be with you.

**Rev David Baker**  
Moderator, Queensland Synod

## PRE-ARRANGING A FUNERAL IS LIKE PAINTING A PICTURE FOR THOSE YOU LEAVE BEHIND.

PRE-ARRANGING MAKES A DIFFICULT TIME SO MUCH EASIER BECAUSE THOSE YOU LEAVE BEHIND WILL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO. AT K.M.SMITH, WE CAN HELP YOU WITH EVERY DETAIL. PLEASE CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**K.M.SMITH**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
*We think of everything*

- BOWEN HILLS | 3252 2031
- ARANA HILLS | 3351 8244
- ASPLEY | 3263 2326
- CAPALABA | 3390 1333
- GOODNA | 3818 7833
- HILLCREST | 3800 7800
- IPSWICH | 3281 7831
- NORTH LAKES | 3886 3412
- SHERWOOD | 3716 0161
- STRATHPINE | 3205 8655
- VICTORIA POINT | 3820 9588
- WYNNUM | 3348 4133

[www.kmsmith.com.au](http://www.kmsmith.com.au)  
KM15017\_PrePlan





UnitingCare Queensland director of mission Colleen Geyer (left) with Edge 2015 guest speaker Vicki Webster (right).  
Photo: Ashley Thompson

# Invert your thinking

Last month UnitingCare Queensland's Edge Innovation Festival set out to challenge the preconceived ideas of UnitingCare Queensland staff. **Ashley Thompson** reports.

**Created with the objective to “turn your thinking upside down”, Edge is a festival of free events designed to inspire Uniting Church service groups including: UnitingCare Community, UnitingCare Health, Blue Care and the UnitingCare Group Office.**

Not unlike the 31st Synod open space, the inaugural event in August 2014 provided opportunities for staff and volunteers to create, network and exchange ideas which will ultimately innovate the operational practices of their organisations.

According to UnitingCare Queensland director of mission Colleen Geyer, Edge 2015 is all about a new perspective: inviting staff, volunteers and even clients to take a look at something from a different angle.

“Sometimes you have to disrupt how you do things to make a difference ... because if we do that then the sky's the limit on what we can achieve,” she said.

“Innovation is dancing on the edge of creativity,” said national director of UnitingCare Australia, Lin Hatfield Dodds in her video address to participants at the opening event.

UnitingCare Queensland CEO and 2014 Telstra Business Women of the Year, Anne Cross added, “Innovation is the way good ideas are made valuable.”

To UnitingCare staff this festival is an organised breathing space from the workplace and a chance to reflect on the assumptions they bring to the issues they address daily.

“We need to stop fixing by using traditional thinking,” says Edge Inspire speaker Vicki Webster—leadership specialist, career coach and organisational psychologist.

Vicki invited participants to write out their assumptions (the things they know to be true) when addressing a problem, and then to write out the complete opposite—quoting CD Baby founder Derek Sivers, “We need to realise the opposite of our assumptions may also be true.”

The purpose of Edge 2015 was to put innovation at the forefront of UnitingCare and avoid falling into the trap of it always being an afterthought.

Divided into four streams: Edge Create, Edge MoveIt, Edge Ideas and Edge Future; participants were encouraged to sing, draw, work out, be open-minded and let their imagination run free through a series of events held over four days across the state in halls, cafes, pubs and “quirky” spaces.

Colleen says she is excited for the future of Edge as it continues to challenge and open up the minds of UnitingCare staff.

*For more information about Edge Innovation Festival visit [edge-innovation.squarespace.com](http://edge-innovation.squarespace.com)*

‘Innovation is dancing on the edge of creativity’

**Lin Hatfield Dodds**



## EDUCATION AND VALUE FOR LIFE

### Clayfield College

**Girls:** Pre-prep to Year 12 **Boarding:** Girls from Year 5  
**Boys:** Pre-prep to Year 5  
(07) 3262 0262 [www.clayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.clayfield.qld.edu.au)

### Brisbane Boys' College

**Boys:** Prep to Year 12  
**Boarding:** Years 5 to 12  
(07) 3309 3500 [www.bbc.qld.edu.au](http://www.bbc.qld.edu.au)

### Somerville House

Day and boarding school from Prep to Year 12 and a day school for pre-prep girls and boys  
**Boarding:** Years 6 to 12  
(07) 3248 9200 [www.somerville.qld.edu.au](http://www.somerville.qld.edu.au)

### Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Co-educational day school Prep to Year 12  
(07) 5445 4444 [www.scgs.qld.edu.au](http://www.scgs.qld.edu.au)

**Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association** [www.pmsa-schools.edu.au](http://www.pmsa-schools.edu.au)  
A ministry of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches, providing excellence in education in a Christian and caring environment.

# Storming the old boys' club

The dreaded “F” word: bra burnings and angry women are so last century yet the stigma around feminism remains. **Ashley Thompson** speaks with four Christian women reclaiming feminist values for ministry and mission.

**Simply put, feminism is a stand for the political, economic and social equality of the sexes. It is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. So why are so many women—and men—reluctant to ascribe to the label?**

On this journey of discovery, we asked four women of faith “Do you identify with feminism?”

## Accidental feminists

Rev Dr Norma Spear, the first woman ordained by the Methodist Church in Queensland replies, “Probably from my own background, I’m reluctant to own it but when I talk about my history and when I talk about my ideas I’d have to say I am.”

Rachel Held Evans, author of *New York Times* best-seller *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*, writes “I am an accidental feminist, for my liberation did not come from Simone de Beauvoir or Betty Friedan, but from Mary and Martha, Junia and Priscilla, Phoebe and Tabitha. It came from the marvellous and radical recognition that if the gospel is good news for them, then maybe it is good news for me too.”

“I don’t like that question!” responds Australia’s first female Samoan minister, Rev Faye Talatunu, “If I say I’m not a feminist, I’d probably offend a lot of females and if I am ... look, I am in a sense but it was a struggle for me to even think about ordination because in my culture women are not accepted [in that role].”

The Queensland Synod’s first female moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds reflects, “I am a feminist if it means inviting everyone to bring their gifts to the table and seeking to get the best people with the right qualifications and attitude to fill roles—and have them fairly compensated for their contribution.”

These are the beautifully diverse thoughts of four women working through what it means to be both a follower of Jesus and a feminist. They, like many women today, walk through a cultural minefield of trying to own gender equality while avoiding falling victim to popular misconceptions about the feminist movement.

## Debunking feminist myths

According to gender scholars Charlotte Krokke and Anne Scott Sorensen, the modern western feminist movements can be divided into three “waves”: first, second and third.

The misunderstandings and stereotypes perpetuated in recent decades are largely due to one particularly loud wave of feminism: that is “second wave” or “liberal feminism”.

In 1970s Australia, this was characterised by academic and journalist Germaine Greer’s first book, *The Female Eunuch* which declared women in the “traditional” suburban, consumerist, nuclear family to be repressed and controlled by men. Greer’s book, while an important text in the feminist movement, alienated women who were offended by or disagreed with her thesis.

“I didn’t see myself as a Germaine Greer—wanting to go out and ‘take ‘em on’. Mine was a much more subtle approach,” says Norma Spear of her trailblazing life in ministry.

“It was survival in the area I wanted to belong. If I had gone in confrontationally I would not have survived.”

Today many women continue to reject the feminist label as contemporary culture fails to distinguish between the true meaning and the characteristics associated with famous feminists like Greer. Misconceptions that all feminists hate men, are angry and aggressive, see themselves as superior, are anti-marriage, pro-abortion and reject motherhood still linger in popular culture.

‘I think we have an old boys’ club here in Queensland. It is very strong,’  
**Rev Dr Norma Spear**





Rev Kaye Ronalds



Rev Faye Talatonu



Rev Dr Norma Spear



Rachel Held Evans

## Trailblazers

For many years Norma stood for selection as moderator of the Uniting Church in Queensland. Yet despite the recognition of women's ministerial gifts in the *Basis of Union*, the 1977 foundational document of the Uniting Church in Australia, it would take more than 30 years before Queensland was to eventually elect its first female moderator: Rev Kaye Ronalds.

"I think we have an old boys' club here in Queensland. It is very strong," says Norma.

As a female candidate for ministry, Norma experienced both patronisation and sexism. One Sunday a male minister told Norma after her sermon, "I found myself saying; even a man would listen to this!"

"It's a put-down isn't it?" she says, "You have to rise up even to get their attention but when you get their attention it's a marvel you can even do it!"

Norma's response was to buckle down and let her work speak for itself. "It's very hard to criticise somebody whose ministry is producing fruit, even though you don't agree with them."

The resilience of this ministry pioneer has been a blessing to those she's mentored, including Kaye Ronalds, with whom she has a close connection.

"I had the luxury of stepping through the doors flung open by older women who had to prove their ability and worthiness," says Kaye of her experience as moderator.

"There were many worthy female candidates before me who did not get that opportunity. So I had a real sense of privilege, and awareness that I carried some of their hopes and dreams with me into my term."

Current Uniting Church Queensland moderator, Rev David Baker reflects, "I sit around the leadership tables and my sense is that we sit around those tables as equals but from time to time I am reminded that maybe it's not as deeply equal as it could be."

## Cultural barriers

While Australia has already experienced female political leadership at its highest level, the island of Samoa is said to have the lowest levels of female political participation in the world—according to a 2015 research paper by the National University of Samoa.

The study entitled, "Village government in Samoa: Do women participate?" noted that village church communities are led mainly by men as the "long-established mainstream churches in Samoa do not ordain women; even if their Protestant counterpart churches in other countries do so."

Brought up in New Zealand before moving to Australia and settling into Logan Multicultural Uniting Church, Rev Faye Talatonu's Samoan heritage has made her path to ordination a long and considered journey.

"When I was growing up women were just like young people: they were seen but not heard," says Faye.

It wasn't until Faye was challenged by her family and her (male) Tongan Uniting Church minister that she truly considered ministry to be a legitimate calling.

"They didn't look at my culture, they looked at God's call upon my life and they believed it was ordination," she says.

"My culture is a big part of who I am but in that is God—so it wasn't about breaking my culture, it was about being obedient to God's call."

## Jesus feminist

"I am a follower of Jesus first and a feminist second," writes Rachel Held Evans in a blog post titled "Confessions of an accidental feminist". She is renowned for eloquently articulating the hearts of young Christians, both male and female.

"I always laugh a little to myself when I receive a Google alert informing me that someone on the internet has criticised me as a 'bitter, angry woman' intent on destroying the church with my 'radical feminist agenda'. I don't hate men or burn bras or crave power, I—like most feminists—simply believe that women are human and should be treated as such."

Rachel concludes, "It isn't feminism that inspires me to advocate gender equality in the church and in the world; it is the gospel of Jesus Christ."



Participants at the North Queensland Presbytery kids' campout.  
Photo: Supplied

# Camp creates counter-cultural community



Last month, 15 leaders of North Queensland Presbytery's annual kids' campout embarked on the mission to create a counter-cultural camp community. **Ashley Thompson** reports.

‘God truly blessed this time away together and it was a great success’

**Rev Greg Rankin**

**Children from congregations as far and wide as Ingham, Charters Towers, Townsville and Burdekin gathered for the North Queensland Presbytery annual kids' campout in August.**

Organised by volunteers from local congregations, 15 adults gave up their time to grow faith and create memories for the presbytery's children at the Girl Guides Queensland campsite just north of Townsville.

Ingham Uniting Church minister Rev Greg Rankin says the purpose of kids' camps in the north is to create a fun, positive culture through community-building activities—developing the church's relationship with young people and teaching them counter-cultural values such as kindness and inclusivity.

“I brought children who had never been on a camp before and were shy in joining in, but the rest of the kids were so good with them and went out of their way to include them in everything they did,” says Greg.

From positive reinforcement through kind notes to small groups, worship, interactive messages, bonfires and the hugely popular “sponge wars”, Greg says the most fulfilling part of the weekend is watching the kids take on the values themselves.

“If I could change one thing about camp it would be to make it go for longer,” said two young attendees who also listed the team-building camp tradition “sponge wars” as their favourite activity.

Junior leaders also grew in their understanding of the gospel as guest speaker Dan Dubbeld, a Scripture Union school chaplain, shared about how God allows us to overcome fear when we live as Jesus' disciples.

“If we trust and follow God, we have nothing to fear. Fear comes from the ‘other one,’” shared one junior leader when recounting what they had learned on camp.

“God truly blessed this time away together and it was a great success,” says Rev Greg Rankin, “The kids all had a ball!”

“I would like to encourage all presbyteries and Synod to continue in the important and good work that goes on for our young people—it truly makes a difference and most importantly makes God smile.”

For more information on Uniting Church activities in North Queensland visit [ucanq.com.au](http://ucanq.com.au)



**The Lakes College**  
TO YOUR FAITH ADD KNOWLEDGE

*“Join us on the journey”*

**The Lakes College**  
College Street North Lakes Q 4509  
Phone: 07 3491 5555

**The Lakes College** is a Prep to Year 12 independent co-educational Christian College in North Lakes, well known for our amazing sense of school spirit and strong community.

**The Lakes College** seeks to actively engage students in their learning and preparation for life in the global future and has established a rigorous academic program with a wide variety of extracurricular activities in sporting, artistic and academic arenas.

For more information about **The Lakes College** and the opportunities we can provide your child, phone **07 3491 5555**, email [registrar@thelakes.qld.edu.au](mailto:registrar@thelakes.qld.edu.au) or visit [www.thelakescollege.com.au](http://www.thelakescollege.com.au)

THE LAKES COLLEGE IS A MINISTRY OF THE UNITING CHURCH

**Enrolments now being taken – contact our Registrar to arrange a personal tour**







Redlands for Refugees members Sylvia Jones (left) and Lyn Moore (right) at the Redfest carnival. Photo: David Busch

# Redlands hospitality leads the way

Sometimes life really is a picnic. Dianne Jensen finds out why Redlands for Refugees is bringing asylum seekers and ordinary Aussies together over sausages, salad and plenty of cake.

**It's hard to imagine a better place to escape the city than Moreton Bay. And among those enjoying a Sunday afternoon of food and conversation are locals from Redlands for Refugees, hosting asylum seekers from the Romero Centre in Brisbane for a day out at the beach.**

Redlands for Refugees got off the ground in 2013 at Trinity Uniting Church, Wellington Point under the leadership of pastor David Busch (now multicultural project officer in the Presbytery of South Moreton and current Redlands for Refugees coordinator). Trinity members were soon joined by other local Christians as well as concerned members of the public.

As the group articulated their mandate of advocacy and community education, they realised their coastal location presented a perfect opportunity to demonstrate traditional Australian hospitality. They contacted the Romero Centre, a Mercy Family Services support network, and organised their first picnic at Wellington Point.

"We are trying to do our little bit in our community to demonstrate love and compassion, and to show these people that there are some people who really care," says Ella Tickle from Wellington Point Uniting Church. "Also, there aren't many refugees in this area, and we wanted to educate the community that refugees are people just like them."

There have been five picnics so far, followed by a series of welcome lunches hosted in homes in July.

Hospitality coordinator Lyn Moore is a member of the Catholic Star of the Sea church. She and Ella have witnessed the anxiety suffered by those caught in the bureaucratic limbo of visa processing.

"These people are constantly worried about visas—they don't know whether they are going to be sent back and they are terrified of talking because of the threat to family at home," says Lyn.

Many asylum seekers have become regulars at the picnics, she adds, forming friendships with local families.

Redlands for Refugees members are keeping asylum seeker policy on the public agenda by hosting information stalls and fundraising events, and attending Love Makes a Way rallies and prayer vigils. Last December the group held an exhibition of art by Tamil asylum seekers at the Cleveland Uniting Church Christmas lights display.

"As Christians we have to stand up about this issue," says Ella. "How can you walk the walk of being a Christian and not care for and love these people?"

For more information visit [redlands4refugees.blogspot.com.au](http://redlands4refugees.blogspot.com.au)

**'We are trying to do our little bit in our community to demonstrate love and compassion, and to show these people that there are some people who really care'**

**Ella Tickle**

## Delegate the burden of financial stress

Robert Bullock is a dedicated Christian, qualified financial planner and member of the Association of Financial Advisers (AFA).

Receive a 100% money back guarantee on your financial plan preparation fee if you believe your financial plan will not add value to your financial situation. Contact Robert today!

**Mention this ad for a free consult!**

1300 303 387 [robert.bullock@kenmorefinancial.com.au](mailto:robert.bullock@kenmorefinancial.com.au) [kenmorefinancial.com.au](http://kenmorefinancial.com.au)







Child Safe Church training held at the Logan Central Multicultural Uniting Church. Photo: Supplied

# Keeping kids safe at church

Jesus gave unequivocal instruction about the importance and care of children. *Journey* explores how this is enacted in the Uniting Church today.

**While the church has been at the forefront of caring for children from the earliest days of rescuing abandoned orphans to pioneering widespread education, recent investigation and reporting has demonstrated that churches and church institutions have not always been places of safety.**

In response, the Queensland Synod has committed itself to the vision of a church where children are not only affirmed and nurtured but are safe from physical, emotional and spiritual harm.

At the heart of this work is supporting congregations and their ministry to the communities which they serve. A systematic approach includes policies, processes, tools and training.

Moderator Rev David Baker sees the Synod's role as more than just resourcing congregations to meet current community expectations, legal obligations and insurance requirements regarding child safety.

"We want to do better than meet the legislative requirements," says David. "We want congregations and church institutions to be places of excellence when it comes to the care of children."

This commitment has seen the Synod employ Lynette Drew as a full-time Child Safe Church Administrator.

Lynette is working with the church community to support a culture in which we embrace safe ministry to families and children of our generation.

"The tools I am wishing to share with the congregations will enhance their ability to appropriately demonstrate their Christian commitment to children, not to engender a culture of suspicion and accusation," says Lynette.

Lynette is connecting with the presbyteries and congregations through training programs and individual support to work with the Synod's Child Safe Church policy and supporting documents.

"By practising a culture of shared guardianship, all members of the church, including church councils, play a vital role to ensure implementation and monitoring of child safe policies and practice within the local congregation," says Lynette.

Lynette's work with presbyteries and congregations involves familiarising everyone in the church community with appropriate boundaries and enabling them to speak out when they feel those boundaries are crossed.

"It is vital to ensure that everyone feels comfortable to raise their concerns in a respectful manner even when they feel those concerns are 'small,'" says Lynette.

*If you have any concerns in relation to any matter involving Child Safe Church please contact Lynette on [lynette.drew@ucaqlld.com.au](mailto:lynette.drew@ucaqlld.com.au)*

**'We want congregations and church institutions to be places of excellence when it comes to the care of children'**

**Rev David Baker**



**Six great showrooms offering more in lighting**

**INDOOROOPILLY**  
INDOOROOPILLY CENTRAL  
34 Coonan Street  
Phone 3720 1877

**ASPLEY**  
HOMEMAKER CITY  
825 Zillmere Road  
Phone 3862 8374

**JINDALEE**  
HOMEMAKER CITY  
38 Goggs Road  
Phone 3279 1961

**LOGAN**  
LOGAN MEGA CENTRE  
3525 Pacific Highway  
Phone 3299 4588

**KAWANA**  
HOME CENTRAL KAWANA  
566 Kawana Way, Birtinya  
Phone 5493 6044

**BUNDALL**  
17 Upton Street  
(Beside The Good Guys)  
Phone 5504 6777

**ANDREWS LIGHT UP ONLINE**

**[www.lightup.com.au](http://www.lightup.com.au)**  
*your number one choice for online lighting*







# Uniting Church colleges supplement 5 tips for keeping the faith at uni

University days rank as some of the happiest times of our life. But living away from home can be a challenge, particularly to our faith. Here are five tips to keeping it all together at uni.

**1 Mental preparation**  
Uni, for many, is the first “big step” into independence and a very significant step in life! It’s a great new testing and proving ground. For many, it is a time in life that has more freedom and opportunity for growth than anything experienced so far.

However, with independence and freedom comes a great deal of personal responsibility. To this end, prepare yourself mentally. You’re not in Kansas anymore, so acknowledge right now this is going to be a time where you need to step up to the plate.

**2 Structure, structure, structure**  
Most uni students faced with the freedom to control their own life choices sometimes slip into habits that “chip away” at their basic health and welfare. Routines that were nailed against at school and home now no longer exist. But these, once “jail house” requirements did provide something really important—structure.

Without structure you will not be able to put the basic building blocks into your life: sleep, exercise, food and hygiene. But moreover, the things you will need for a fulfilled life will also be lacking: such as time for personal reflection and time to spend with God.

**3 Choose who you cruise with**  
Maybe your graduating class was only 30 students. But even if there were 300 in your cohort, you may have felt that there really was no one who truly got you. University provides a good opportunity to find like-minded friends. Some of these relationships will last a life time. So choose early on what type of person you want to be in life and surround yourself with people who are going to encourage you to be all you can be.

**4 Choose your fights wisely**  
Uni is a world of thoughts and ideas. You will be invited regularly to share on a whole range of topics. It may seem a bit of sport to spout your own views of the world. But be careful not to come away

battered and bruised. The battle of ideas is not about winning or dominating. It should bring about a self-reflection upon what we truly believe. Uni should prepare us to go confidently into the even bigger world of work, relationships, and life. It is not a battle of ideas but war of maturity.

**5 Go back to your roots**  
We all need to go home eventually. Going home can be fantastic; you can get your washing done, a home-cooked meal and even a few extra dollars. But coming home also surrounds us with people who truly know us and love us unconditionally. Visiting friends, attending our old church, or doing the things we used to do, remind us of what is important and who we really are, once all the grime of life has been cleaned away. When we return to uni, we are often more centred and able to face the semester ahead with all the opportunities it will bring.

**Daniel Pampuch**  
Executive officer, Schools Commission





## A Caring College Community

**Raymont Lodge Residential College offers a caring college community to tertiary students moving to Brisbane to study.**

Our modern and affordable accommodation is located in Auchenflower, only 4 km from the Brisbane CBD, within easy access of the University of Queensland (UQ), the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Griffith University, Australian Catholic University (ACU) and other tertiary institutions.

High quality catering is a unique feature of our college, with three hot meals provided every day seven days a week, enabling residents to maximise the time spent on their studies without the hassles of shopping and cooking.

Each resident has access to a single room, unlimited wireless internet, built-in storage, individually coded doors and a range of common amenities.

Throughout the year, residents enjoy the opportunity to build lifelong friendships through social events such as Orientation Weekend, the Gala Ball and Croquet Day.

A range of student support services is also available if required.

Visit our website for more details or to book a no-obligation tour of our campus [raymont.com.au](http://raymont.com.au) or join the conversation at [facebook.com/RaymontLodge](https://facebook.com/RaymontLodge) or follow us on [instagram.com/raymontlodge](https://instagram.com/raymontlodge)



[raymont.com.au](http://raymont.com.au)



## King's College is taking applications for next year...

**King's College boasts some of the best facilities and services of any Residential College in Australia including:**

- Academic Support
- Leadership program / industry mentoring
- A well-equipped gymnasium
- Volleyball & Basketball courts
- Swimming pool
- 24 hour common rooms



**King's College does not have a cut-off date for applications.**

**ph** 07 3871 9600  
**email** [kings.college@uq.edu.au](mailto:kings.college@uq.edu.au)

**[kings.uq.edu.au](http://kings.uq.edu.au)**



## Young women thrive at Grace

**Grace College is a fully catered residential facility located at the University of Queensland (UQ).**

Undergraduate and postgraduate women studying in Brisbane have been proud to call Grace College their home-away-from-home since 1970. Auspiced by the Uniting and Presbyterian churches, Grace College welcomes domestic and international students from all cultural and religious backgrounds who share the core values of community, collegiality and care.

Amy and Georgia are two Grace College residents from rural Queensland. They are undergraduate students at the University of Queensland. Amy is from Bundaberg. She has a passion for philosophy and psychology, subjects she is studying towards a double degree in Science and Arts. In her out-of-class hours, Amy plays the tenor saxophone and is a National Club Accreditation Scheme coach for a local pony club. Georgia is in her honours year of speech pathology. Georgia spent her high school years on stage at both Toowoomba State High School and the Empire Theatre in a wide variety of musical and dramatic productions. She continues her music and dance interests at university.

Coming from a rural background, Georgia felt it was really important for her to have a sense of belonging

at a large, internationally recognised university. “The residents on my floor became like a second family. Everyone is from different places but we can always find something to talk about. We take care of each other.” Both young women stressed the emphasis at Grace College on personal growth through sport, music, dance and academic achievement. “We can be who we want to be here. It’s a fresh start after high school in a supportive community environment.”

Amy and Georgia are Grace College’s ‘Wellness Convenors’. They have created a safe space for the women of Grace College and their friends to discuss timely and topical issues such as social justice, animal welfare, positive self-care, environmentalism, how to avoid typecasting people and identifying the characteristics of strong female role models. Amy shared, “We like talking about controversial issues. We agree to disagree all the time. What we are interested in is people expressing their opinion and sharing why they have it.” The ‘Wellness Convenors’ are hoping to engage topic experts to speak with them. They have plans to partner with other student groups at UQ to broaden the conversation base.

To find out more about Grace College, visit [grace.uq.edu.au](http://grace.uq.edu.au) or email Carol at [crc@grace.uq.edu.au](mailto:crc@grace.uq.edu.au)



[grace.uq.edu.au](http://grace.uq.edu.au)



## The John Flynn College

Residential College of First Choice

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY • TOWNSVILLE

**2016**  
**Applications for**  
**on campus**  
**accommodation**

**NOW**  
**OPEN**

The John Flynn College has its foundations firmly based on Christian values. Home to 245 student residents, the college has a friendly atmosphere and a community-oriented spirit.

By becoming a resident at The John Flynn College a student will have access to:

- Full board accommodation
- Academic and pastoral support (e.g. supportive staff, tutors and college chaplain)
- A fully furnished single bedroom, fan-cooled and/or air-conditioned
- High speed internet connection to each room plus communal IT facilities
- Three quality meals per day (cafeteria style) in an air-conditioned dining room
- Extra-curricular options such as social, sport and cultural activities
- Bursaries for new and continuing students
- Central location on the JCU Campus.



07 4727 7500 • [info@johnflynn.org](mailto:info@johnflynn.org) • [johnflynn.org.au](http://johnflynn.org.au) • 





Established in 1911, Emmanuel College is a co-ed residential college, within The University of Queensland, of 350 students from Australia and overseas. We offer, in the words of our founder, “an education for life, not just for livelihood”. Our student enrichment program encompasses:

- 50 tutorials per week, SuperTutes and MasterClasses
- Outstanding academic results
- Scholarships—over \$500 000 awarded in 2015
- Sporting and cultural Inter College Competition activities
- Leadership opportunities
- Community service activities
- Supportive Christian environment
- Pastoral care
- Alumni mentoring
- UQ Pipe Band at Emmanuel College
- Centre for the Study of Science, Religion and Society

**Emmanuel College**  
within The University of Queensland  
*enriching lives since 1911*

[emmanuel.uq.edu.au](http://emmanuel.uq.edu.au) | [enquiries@emmanuel.uq.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@emmanuel.uq.edu.au)

## HEADING TO UNI IN BRISBANE NEXT YEAR? Cromwell (Residential) College



### MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO STAY

Coeducational • Family feel • Live-in staff  
Academic/Pastoral support programs  
Inter-College Sporting, Cultural, Service, Social programs  
Modern rooms • Great food  
UQ, QUT, Griffith, ACU students welcome  
80% of our students from Regional Australia

**CROMWELL  
COLLEGE**

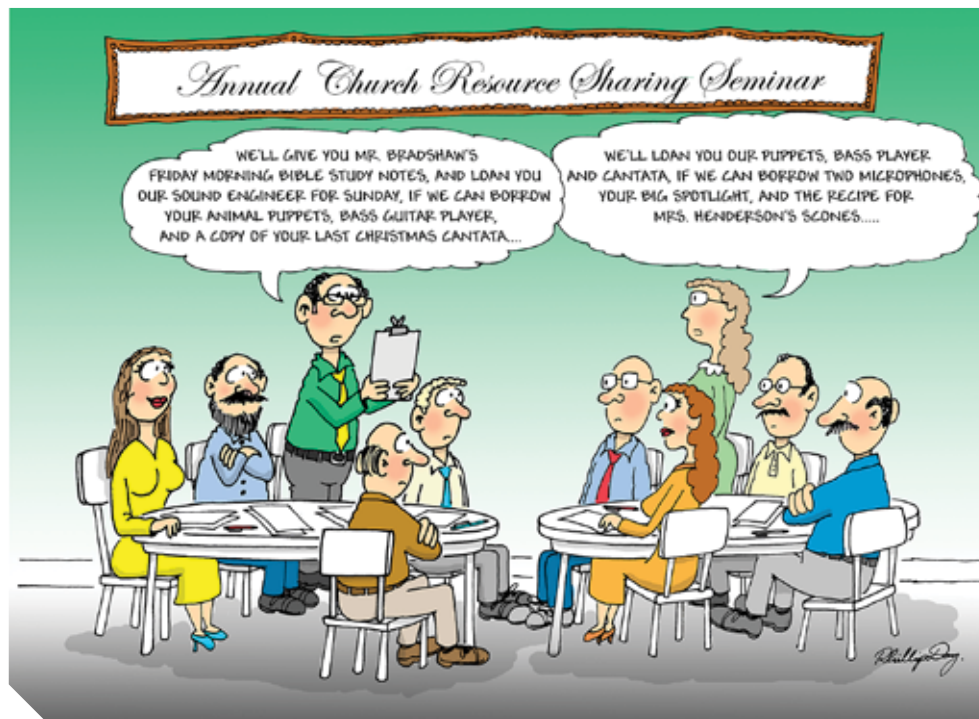


*opportunities now, benefits for life*

[www.cromwell.uq.edu.au](http://www.cromwell.uq.edu.au)

07 3377 1300





# Share and share alike

Lending a helping hand is not only part of Australian culture, it's central to what makes the Uniting Church what it is. **Scott Guyatt** writes about how churches can help one another.

## Queensland is a big place.

Every now and then it's worth reminding ourselves just how big Queensland is, and just how diverse its communities and contexts. To drive for days from the highly urbanised south-east, through large regional centres and to the isolated communities of the far west or north, for example, is an eye-opening experience.

This is no less true in the church, as in the wider community—the diversity of context, of resource, of outlook is considerable.

What then does it mean for us to speak of ourselves as one church? To be a church that is “uniting” not just in terms of our outlook toward other denominations, but toward other elements within our own body?

How can we more effectively live out this invitation to be the body of Christ? To recognise within our extended body that there are many parts—the eye, the elbow, the ear and that little dangly bit at the back of our throat? To know full well that if one part of our body hurts, we all hurt? Or that for the whole body to be healthy, the individual parts need to be healthy first?

There is no question that we face many challenges in our life as church, and equally no question that some of these

can appear more immediate in rural and remote contexts: congregations that are fragile, ministry placements vacant for months (or more), faith communities endeavouring to be a sign of hope in communities buckling under the weight of drought or withdrawal of government services.

If we are to be constantly uniting, if we are to be known by our love for one another then this daily reality stands as a challenge to us.

How do the different parts of our body support one another? How does a rural congregation experience the love and support of an urban congregation? How does the lived experience of a rural community thriving in the face of disadvantage inspire and equip a congregation in a regional or metropolitan Brisbane setting?

How do the gifts of God, to the people of God, become shared with the whole body?

The questions are obvious, the solutions less so. The starting point might just be a commitment to love one another, to being one (healthy) body, and to partnership.

Queensland is a big place. Where can you begin?

*Scott is a project officer for mission engagement with the Uniting Church Queensland Synod.*

‘What then does it mean for us to speak of ourselves as one church?’

It's never  
easy to  
say farewell



Arranging a funeral for a loved one may appear daunting but with our professional, caring guidance you are guaranteed of a truly fitting farewell.

Just call **3851 7800** for immediate help.

**24 Hours/7 Days Service | Pre-arranged Funerals | Funeral Insurance Advice**



**ALEX GOW  
FUNERALS**

*Creating memories since 1840*

*... still family-owned*



# My grateful story

## Teaching kids to care

Build the Future managing director Melanie Minichiello talks to **Dianne Jensen** about her passion for helping young people re-connect with society.

‘A lot of young people just live in the present because it seems too overwhelming to plan for the future. If you don’t have a reason for the pain then you just won’t do it’

**Gratitude. It’s as old-fashioned as a hand-written thank-you note, but youth advocate Melanie Minichiello says being grateful is a key ingredient in happiness and wellbeing.**

“Gratitude allows us to look beyond ourselves and to gain perspective and balance,” says the managing director of the Build the Future youth development organisation in the outer Brisbane suburb of Keperra. Melanie is a former high school chaplain and youth pastor at the Uniting Church Samford Valley Community Church.

Her passion for helping young people discover their power to make choices was the catalyst for the innovative photo challenge My Grateful Story. Last year the 21-day online project attracted 150 high schoolers from Longreach to Weipa to take a daily photo of something for which they were grateful. The 2015 challenge was launched on 1 September.

“It’s easy for the difficulties and challenges that we face to be the only thing we see—and gratitude doesn’t pretend that that stuff isn’t there but it puts it back in

perspective,” says Melanie. “I love that quote, ‘if you change your thoughts then you change the world’, and the biggest thing I try to help young people understand and take responsibility for is what they do have control over in their lives.”

My Grateful Story was a revelatory experience for participants as they delved deep into the humdrum of daily life.

“At the end they had to write a short paragraph ... and a lot of them wrote, ‘I started doing this because I wanted to win one of the prizes but now I don’t care if I win because it has changed my perspective so much—I see life so differently’,” says Melanie.

An exhibition of the project was held at the end of last year at the State Library of Queensland creative space The Edge.

### **Making connections**

Build the Future was started by Brisbane builder Peter Luckman in 2009 to provide a local base for working



with at-risk young people. The foundation conducts school and after-school youth development programs and connects with the community through structured activities like yoga, boxing and the new Change Room community hub.

Melanie's work also takes her out onto the local streets, connecting with kids like the 14-year-olds at the local skate park who have dropped out of school. Already enmeshed in the youth justice and family services system, these children exist on the fringes of society.

"For a 14-year-old, there's no downside to going to the skate park all day and not going to school. And for someone that young, the options for alternative schooling are really limited," says Melanie. "We have to work hard to be accepted, and to provide a good reason for them to go back to school or connect into some other program."

### Generation whatever

Melanie's work as a pastor and school chaplain first opened her eyes to the confusion and sense of hopelessness felt by many young people who have become alienated from social institutions.

"The catalyst for me was understanding the youth suicide rate when we do have everything compared to a lot of countries. Although we are more connected than we've ever been and we have got technology that's 24/7, actual connection and actual community—especially across generations—is where the breakdown is ... the only place where people get community these days is either in sporting clubs, churches or youth groups like scouts."

This social vacuum has made the influence of peers and social media even more pervasive, she adds. Faced with a plethora of choices and a lack of purpose, many young people simply disengage.

"We think lots of choices are good but research shows that it actually decreases our ability to make decisions and think long-term," says Melanie. "A lot of young people just live in the present because it seems too overwhelming to plan for the future. If you don't have a reason for the pain then you just won't do it ... so if you don't have a reason why handing in this assignment is important, then you won't do it."

### Safe spaces

Build the Future's latest venture is a low-key community hub called the Change Room, based around a second-hand clothes store tucked away in a shopping strip in Keperra.

The welcoming shopfront includes comfortable seating and a children's corner, and is staffed by volunteers from local churches including Melanie's home congregation of Samford Valley Community Church.

"People can feel safe to come into that space and then if they want to start a conversation, if they want to seek help then they can take that step, but it's not as confronting as if we were just a centre," she explains. "We have an amazing group of volunteers and we give free clothing to people referred to us through support services such as homeless young people or refugees or young mothers heading for job interviews."

"What I love about working with young people is once you've built rapport they are so open to journeying with you; and once there's trust they are so willing to be honest and to ask questions and to seek. They are really looking for people who will speak into their life and walk beside them."

### Salt in the world

The core values of her Christian faith are integral to Melanie's commitment to young people in danger of quietly falling through the cracks of society.

"Christians are called to be salt in the world, and that's what we are doing ... helping young people to explore what love really is in the sense of how we believe it as Christians. I really do believe in those values—they are not just nice things—that love and courage are powerful things that make a powerful difference in someone's life."

For churches to play a role in these young people's lives, they will need to accept the paradox that the current generation is both averse to commitment and in search of authentic relationships, she adds.

"It needs to be a faith community that allows for that sense of freedom to come and go ... but the most important thing is consistency. With the breakdown in families and the pace of life young people just don't have consistency in their life. So freedom and then relationship, and then they are looking for a genuine experience of God."

"Ultimately the most important thing we can do is to love, and use the language of love, because as always that's the most revolutionary thing we can do in our society today and the most countercultural."

For more information visit [buildthefuture.org.au](http://buildthefuture.org.au) or call 0405 035 925.

‘The most important thing we can do is to love, and use the language of love, because as always that’s the most revolutionary thing we can do in our society today and the most countercultural’

# Breaking open the w

## Lay preachers in the Uniting Church

The ministry of lay preacher lies at the heart of the Uniting Church's vision of a Christian community which celebrates the gifts of every member. **Dianne Jensen** reports.

‘We set the parameters in a sense—we know that God does the work along the way and we find often that students are quite changed’  
**Rev Mel Perkins**

**Caroline Holmes from Fitzroy North Rockhampton Uniting Church has clocked up 53 years of lay preaching, and she is busier than ever.**

She is one of an army of lay preachers who lead worship every Sunday, living out the Uniting Church affirmation that both lay and ordained people are called to lead the church and to preach the gospel. Without lay preachers, the witness and revelation of the laity would be lost and many small congregations would founder.

“It is a ministry that is vitally important to the life of the church and it needs to be valued as a ministry that lay people can offer to the church,” says Caroline. “Lay preachers are not just filling in until someone more qualified comes along.”

Caroline was commissioned by the Presbyterian Church in 1962 and was recognised as a lay preacher at church union. After missionary service overseas she began preaching in rural centres such as Biloela and Emerald before moving to Rockhampton.

“It’s something I can’t not do—it’s like asking someone what breathing means to them,” says Caroline. “I am an educator through and through but lay preaching is different from education; it’s actually a sharing of what is in the gospel of Christ.”

She is a tireless advocate for continuing education, and would like to see the Queensland Synod provide more support for lay preachers.

“I think for lay preachers it is absolutely imperative that they keep abreast of what is happening theologically, but there is no financial support to do that,” says Caroline. “That’s a disappointment because I think the church relies incredibly on its lay preachers.”

### Speaking in tongues

Blue Care chaplain and retired teacher Gewa Au is one of around 30 lay preachers in the congregation of Logan Central Multicultural Uniting Church just south of Brisbane. He was accredited in 2013 and conducts services at Blue Care aged care and respite facilities in Labrador and Woodlands on the Gold Coast.

“The lay preaching course was an introductory course for those who were already leaders within the congregation, including Samoans, Tongans, Papua New Guineans, Fijian, and Sudanese,” says Gewa, who hails from PNG.

“English is a very difficult language and multicultural people find it difficult to explain things. What the lay preaching did was give them foundational information about the New Testament, the Old Testament and Christology, and information about worship within the Uniting Church. It also provided them some good leadership and preaching skills.”

While participants were excited by the opportunity to preach to their communities in their own language, Gewa says that the training was also a forum to discuss cultural issues and Uniting Church beliefs and practices.

“When people come from a cultural background sometimes they come with a set understanding and they come to these courses to fill a gap ... but if they come with an open mind they can explore further to where they are being called.”

### Working through, face-to-face

The lay preaching course offered by Trinity College Queensland reflects the complexity of the role. Students complete six basic units which encompass Biblical and theological study and worship and preaching as well as an understanding of the lay preaching code of ethics. Presbyteries undertake further assessment, which is followed by accreditation and commissioning.

The flexible Trinity course is attracting students from Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT via their synods.

Rev Mel Perkins, adult faith educator and lay ministries coordinator at Trinity College Queensland, acknowledges that the depth and breadth of the training often comes as a surprise to those gearing up for a quick route to the pulpit.

“For us it’s a learning time and it’s not a tick-the-box and get-through-as-fast-as-you-can kind of thing. One of the things we find particularly with the online environment is that it takes as long as it takes—and that actually helps in people’s formation because it allows them time to really work through things.”



*It is a ministry that is vitally important to the life of the church ... lay preachers are not just filling in until someone more qualified comes along*

Caroline Holmes  
Fitzroy North Rockhampton Uniting Church



*When people come from a cultural background sometimes they come with a set understanding ... but if they come with an open mind they can explore further'*

Gewa Au  
Logan Central Multicultural Uniting Church

# ord

The combination of online and face-to-face study options provides the opportunity for a reflective learning process, she adds.

"We really mix up their assessment pieces so it's getting them to connect holistically but also looking ahead to worship and preaching as well their own spiritual life ... We set the parameters in a sense—we know that God does the work along the way and we find often that students are quite changed."

Eric Woodrow from Indooroopilly Uniting Church in Brisbane agrees that the lay preaching course delivered more than he anticipated. Eric has been involved in music ministry and leadership in his local congregation for years, and is now completing his presbytery worship and preaching requirements.

With a background in food science and business, he was expecting an approach to learning which would include definitive answers and a good sprinkling of graphs and dot points. Instead, he was challenged to consider theology and faith from a different perspective.

"It seemed like all the stuff you learned at Sunday School wasn't as black and white as you thought," says Eric. "All of a sudden it was being made very clear that the Bible wasn't a scientific document, it was a theological document where a theme was more important than the actual number of people gathered ... so that was certainly challenging, scary—it really puts you on your back foot."

"You start off with this vanilla sense of the Bible and after you dig a bit you get salted caramel! There's a complexity there that is interesting, challenging, inspiring!"

## A charge to keep

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) developed its own national leadership development program for Indigenous church leaders ten years ago. Calvary presbytery minister Rev John Adams says that while there are no accredited lay preachers in Calvary, a number of Indigenous lay people have completed a Cert III in Christian Ministry and Theology and are currently studying Cert IV units. Congress has negotiated with Nungalinga College in Darwin to continue these courses from 2016.

"The courses include units on worship and preaching, amongst other things, and the training is designed and contextualised for Indigenous people," says John.

Central Queensland presbytery minister Rev Brian Gilbert has first-hand experience of the crucial role of lay leadership in the bush.

"With many congregations experiencing long periods without a minister in placement, the ministry of lay preacher has taken on increased importance," says Brian. "Accreditation as a lay preacher does two things: it gives the church confidence that a person has gifts pertaining to that ministry, and it also gives an individual skills and knowledge which will enable him/her to more competently prepare for leadership."

North Queensland presbytery minister Rev Garry Hardingham points out that the shortage of ordained ministers in rural presbyteries is compounded by the limited numbers of retired ministers—there are currently seven across the presbytery.

"In rural congregations which can't afford full-time ministry or have multiple preaching places, lay preachers are essential to the good ordering of the church and keeping the doors open," says Garry.

"Good quality training for and supervision of our lay preachers is essential in maintaining the integrity of the message in these communities."



*You start off with this vanilla sense of the Bible and after you dig a bit you get salted caramel!*

Eric Woodrow  
Indooroopilly Uniting Church,  
Brisbane







# 5 ways to make child safe churches

Active planning for safety can help us meet our mission goals and reach out to the community. It's absolutely critical that every church is a child safe church. Here's five tips that will help make that happen.

1

## Share guardianship

Every person engaged in the life of the church needs to grow a culture of shared guardianship of children. The Child Safe Church policy endeavours to support congregations to achieve this goal. Your presbytery also has a risk management officer who can support you with this in your congregation.

2

## Find safe people

Make sure that those with the most appropriate gifts and abilities are working with children and are provided support in their roles.

3

## Use safe places

Ensure the venues used for child and youth ministry are maintained in a state which best meets the needs of the activities.

4

## Make safe programs

Work within the boundaries of the church's policy and procedure documents so that planned activities are conducted in a way that is safe for everyone. Planning for safety is an integral part of the success of your child and youth ministries.

5

## Speak up

If you think something is amiss, no matter how large or small, raise it with the appropriate people as soon as possible. If you are not sure who to speak with, a good place to start is the "Responding to abuse and harm" document, which is on the Synod website.

*All resources in this list can be found on the Child Safe Church section of the Queensland Synod website. Go to [ucaqld.com.au/administration/compliance/child-safe-church](http://ucaqld.com.au/administration/compliance/child-safe-church) and click on Child Safe Church documents.*

*If you need support for your concerns contact Amanda Hickey at the Synod office at [amanda.hickey@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:amanda.hickey@ucaqld.com.au)*



**ANTON BROWN FUNERALS**  
100% QUEENSLAND FAMILY OWNED

*We can help with all your funeral needs  
in Brisbane and Surrounding Areas*

[www.antonbrownfunerals.com.au](http://www.antonbrownfunerals.com.au)



57 BALACLAVA STREET  
WOOLLOONGABBA

**3217 3088**

1285 GYMPIE ROAD ASPLEY

**3863 4000**





# Fathers on the front-line

Fatherhood is an increasingly complex vocation, and all Christian fathers have a responsibility to help their children in their Christian life, writes **Graham Williamson**.

**It never ceases to amaze me: the number of areas in which Christian life is such an obvious answer to many of the social ills that are confronting society. Never has it been so true that the Bible is the owner's manual for life.**

While fatherhood does not come with an instruction manual, we do have some guidance. According to the Bible a diligent father is a crucial component of the family. In my years as a foster father I have found Paul's advice in 1 Thessalonians 2:12 to be a helpful guide. Paul gives us three characteristics of a father's relationship with his children:

## Encouraging

Probably the most important influence that many children miss out on is encouragement. Kids today have been told what they are not good at and have never received encouragement to go on to bigger and better things.

## Comforting

It's always been important to comfort our children; dealing with insecurity and anxiety is part of growing up. Today it's probably more important than ever because of the way children are thrust into the adult world at a younger age.

## Urging to live "worthy" lives

There's something more important than going to uni and getting the best job. Christian instruction for children, particularly as they complete their secondary education,

is vital. It's the time at which they are looking for answers and looking for a reason for the world and a purpose in their lives.

I remember Jeremy, he came to us when he was 14. He'd been out of school for six months, expelled for substance abuse. We visited a number of schools until we found one that would work with him to overcome the obstacles he faced. He went on to complete an honours degree in computer science at Griffith University.

Fatherhood is an increasingly complex vocation. Many factors influence how we as fathers interact with our children. Just keeping up with technology is one area—if our children sense we are technological luddites we put an impediment in our relationship. Another is the feeling of inadequacy that most children experience in high school. It seems our schools are good at pointing out student deficiencies rather than emphasising their capabilities. Yet another is our child's image of self-worth; someone else is smarter, better looking or has more friends. We must help our children keep these issues in perspective.

For all of us, there is no greater calling than to be found worthy of our Christian life; for fathers, there is no greater calling than helping our children realise that.

*Graham and his wife Lorna have been fostering children for 30 years.*

*Father's Day is Sunday 6 September.*

**‘Never has it been so true that the Bible is the owner's manual for life’**



## Thinking of making a Will and don't know where to start?

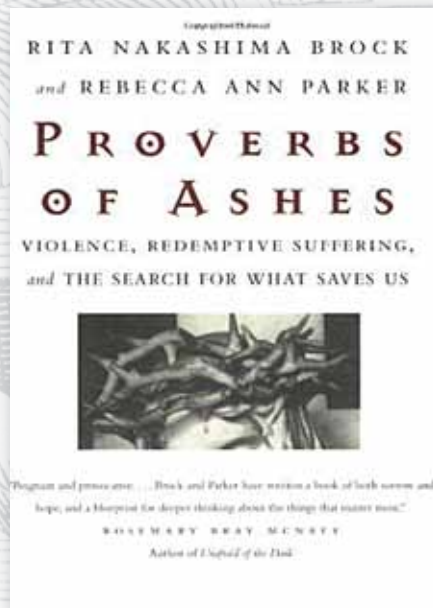
Call us on (07) 3377 9823 and we will post or email you a **free** handy reference guide on how to make a Will.



**MISSION POSSIBLE**

The Uniting Church Foundation  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

[missionpossible.ucaqlld.com.au](http://missionpossible.ucaqlld.com.au)



# What is the Christian response to trauma?

***Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering and the Search for What Saves Us***

Rita Nakashima Brock and  
Rebecca Ann Parker  
Beacon Press, 2001  
\$24 RRP

**Rebecca, an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and a seminary president and Rita, a theologian and researcher, explore through their own individual experiences, deep and difficult theological perspectives and teachings of Western Christianity in relation to issues of family violence, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, racism, addiction, homophobia and post-traumatic disorders.**

The detailed analysis of their life experiences in the context of traditional theology and Christian attitudes is thought-provoking, challenging and sometimes distressing.

The three parts of the book correspond to the liturgical seasons of Lent, Pentecost and Epiphany. What Christian theology of the cross says to people who are carrying their own personal pain and suffering is addressed by Rebecca through six Lenten sermons to her congregation. In these she challenges the teaching that the violence of the crucifixion of Christ reveals the grace of God.

In part two, both share their life experiences and reveal how people cope silently with their own traumas while contributing to the support of others. Rita shares how her personal experiences of working as a volunteer in a summer camp program for high school students reshapes her life personally and theologically.

In the final section each author unveils their own deep personal struggles through life. In their postlude they say, "In our efforts to cleave to life, we have found the presence of God". They affirm that despite their personal trials and the difficulties with some of the current Christian teaching, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God".

This book is well written and will challenge you to think deeply about current issues of child abuse, domestic violence and a range of prejudices within the community.

**Yvonne Burns AO PhD**  
Member of Albert Street Uniting Church

## Grant Applications Now Open!

Redcliffe Uniting is now taking applications for grants from their Neil James Grant Bequest Funds. Application is open to Uniting Church congregations for works, projects and programs that extend the mission of God in Qld. Grants from \$1,000 - \$5,000 will be considered.

Closing date 9 October for distribution early 2016

Entry forms and further information 3283 4066  
[www.redcliffe.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.redcliffe.unitingchurch.org.au)







## To the editor

### Gratitude to Francis

Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* is not expensive in book form. I have read it carefully.

The pope is in a unique position to address people worldwide on the challenges facing the human family and our "common home". As he says, it concerns us all. Each of us can do something; together we can do more. Leaders of government and business are challenged in a forthright way.

In particular, I am grateful to the pope for bringing together damage to the environment and human suffering, showing the contribution of our greed and selfishness.

He adds the moral, spiritual and theological dimension to the scientific and economic.

He calls for discussion at all levels between people with a range of views.

He offers a God-centred vision of creation and of God's ongoing love and care.

Yes, an encyclical carries weight. But it is not the authority of one man, or of one section of the Christian church. Pope Francis can't save the world. He does invite us to follow the only one who can.

**Jenny Fox**  
East Brisbane

*All letters must directly address articles and letters from the previous month's edition of Journey. Opinions expressed are only indicative of the individual writer, not their entire congregation. While direct responses to letters are acceptable, ongoing discussions about an article more than two months old will not be published.*

*Full submission guidelines for letters to the editor can be found at [journeyonline.com.au/submit](http://journeyonline.com.au/submit)*

### No more men's groups please

I write as a spiritual seeker recently reconnecting with church after a long absence. I agree with Heather Blake's letter ("Women and men should be in equal partnership", August 2015, page 19). I too am opposed to the idea of single-sex groups. The church should be about breaking and challenging gender barriers and sexist stereotypes, not creating and reinforcing them.

It makes for a far healthier, progressive and inclusive environment when the sexes mix and relate freely as equals and unique individuals not categorised and divided by attributes such as gender.

As a man who does not fit the typical male stereotype, I feel very uncomfortable and offended when people make gender-based assumptions about me. I am tired of people constantly trying to draft me into men's groups.

**David Young**  
Comment left on JourneyOnline

### Pastoral letter on marriage now available

Uniting Church Assembly president Stuart McMillan has released a pastoral letter on the theology of marriage discussions.

The letter "embraces LGBTIQ people as full members of the church community" while calling the Uniting Church to continue respectful conversations around the theology of marriage that were held at the 14th Assembly.

Read the full letter at [tinyurl.com/ucalettermarriage theology](http://tinyurl.com/ucalettermarriage theology)

### New affiliation for Trinity College Queensland

Trinity College Queensland is switching to be affiliated with Charles Sturt University under the auspices of United Theological College—the NSW-ACT Synod college.

Trinity had previously offered its Bachelor of Theology program and other higher education courses in partnership with Australian Catholic University.

The new affiliation will begin in 2016.



[frederiks.com.au](http://frederiks.com.au)

call us 07 3826 6111

#### MAXIMISING YOUR POTENTIAL

Frederiks Accountants is a Christian-run business based in Cleveland, Brisbane with a client base from all over Australia. We can help you in the areas of: accounting and taxation; company and trust structures; self-managed superannuation; bookkeeping and GST; auditing and assurance; business consulting and valuations; and financial planning.

We offer expertise in the grazing industry, building development and taxation of rental properties. Call our specialised team today to get started!

Your first consultation is free, irrespective of time!

"We take the time to listen."




## My Blue Care Make it **yours**

Blue Care's strength lies in our people. Your dedicated Blue Care team will put your needs and interests first. Why not make Blue Care part of your every day?

**Please contact one of our friendly team members and discuss your care needs or enquire about our services.**

 **1300 258 322**  
 **mybluecare.org.au**




## *Called to care*

### Is your church resourced for mental health ministry?

We are called to care and recognise the importance of those families whose lives are affected by mental health issues. The 31st Synod meeting resolved that all congregations must actively participate in the Mental Health Day of Prayer, to be held each year at the end of Mental Health Week.

Uniting Communications has produced a valuable set of resources for your use on Mental Health Day of Prayer on Sunday, 11 October 2015, including a booklet *Called to Care: Thoughts for congregations*, a bible study, videos, liturgies and audio links.

Visit our website below for more details.  
[ucaqld.com.au/calledtocare](http://ucaqld.com.au/calledtocare)


 The Uniting Church in Australia  
 QUEENSLAND SYNOD

## 2015 Christmas postcard campaign

Help raise community awareness of your congregation's services and events during the Christmas season.

**Registrations now open!**  
[ucaqld.com.au](http://ucaqld.com.au)




 The Uniting Church in Australia  
 QUEENSLAND SYNOD